

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1-4, 7 and 17 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

receiving image data of an original image, the original image having character images provided on a background image;

conducting character recognition on the image data including

preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition;

extracting areas from the image data which correspond to the character images; and

generating character code data based on the extracted character images;

changing, based on the character recognition, the image data by replacing the extracted areas with the background image with reference to the image data therein
generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images; and

storing the changed image data and the character code data along with a relationship between them.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

conducting character recognition on image data including

preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition; and

converting character image data in the preprocessed image data of an original image to character code data; and

complementing, based upon the character recognition, the character image data based on image data around the character image data therein changing image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character image data.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

conducting character recognition on image data including

preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition; and

converting character image data in the preprocessed image data of an original image to character code data;

complementing, based upon the character recognition, the character image data based on image data around the character image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the characters image data; and

storing the character code data and the changed image data along with a relationship between them.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processor comprising:

a reader which reads an original image of a document to provide image data thereof;

character recognition device conducting character recognition on the image data including

a preprocessing device preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition;

a converter which determines character code data of character image data in correspondence to character image in the image data; and

an acquiring device which determines position data on a position in the character image data converted to character code data in the image data;

a corrector which, based upon the character recognition, changes the character image data to the same as a color of an image around the character image with reference to the image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images; and

a storage device which stores the character code data and the changed image data including the complemented character image data along with a relationship between them.

5. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 4, wherein said acquiring device further determines font and font size based on the character image data in correspondence to the character image in the image data.

6. (Original) The image processor according to claim 4, further comprising a processor which generates print data for printing the document image, based on the character code data, the position data and the image data stored in said storage device.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processor which converts character image data in image data to character code data comprising:

character recognition device conducting character recognition on the image data including

a preprocessing device preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition;

an extractor which extracts character image data in the preprocessed image data of an original image, the original image having character images provided on a background image; and

a converter which converts the extracted character image data to character code data;

a deleter which, based on the character recognition, deletes the character images from the background image with reference to the image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images; and

a synthesizer which synthesizes the character code data with the changed image data.

8. (Original) The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said deleter complements the image data at an area of the character images on the background image according to image data of an ambient background image of the area.

9. (Original) The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said converter does not convert a character image data to a character code data when an area of the character image data has color change.

10. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said extractor extracts character image data character by character.

11. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 7, wherein said extractor extracts the character image data in the unit of word.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the generating step, the character code data are generated in reference to color information on the character images.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein, in the converting step, the character code data are generated in reference to color information on the character images.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein, in the converting step, the character code data are generated in reference to color information on the character images.

15. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 4, wherein the converter determines the character code data in reference to color information on the character images.

16. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 7, wherein the converter converts the extracted character images to the character code data in reference to color information on the character images.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

receiving image data of an original image, the original image having at least one character image on a background image;

conducting character recognition on the image data including

preprocessing the image data for [[optical]] character recognition; and

generating character code data based on the at least one character image with reference to color information on the at least one character image;

generating, based on the character recognition, changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the at least one character image by replacing image data of the at least one character image that has been converted into the character code data with image data of the

background image; and

storing the changed image data and the character code data along with a relationship between them.